

## **REMARKS**

### **Amendment**

Claims 1-47 are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice, and to correct errors in dependency.

### **Election**

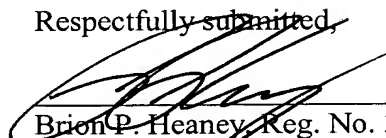
In the Office Action issued March 10, 2006, the Examiner presents a Restriction Requirement wherein the claims are divided into two groups, i.e., Group I, drawn to a product, namely an apparatus, and Group II, drawn to process of using the product. In response to the Restriction, applicants hereby elect Group I. However, the Restriction Requirement is traversed.

The product of Group I and the process of using same are clearly related. The apparatus, as recited in claim 1, provides transport means ( $TE_n$ ), by which at least one bar-shaped/pipe-shaped article ( $G_r$ ) and/or other articles ( $G_n$ ) can be moved into irradiation position. Similarly, the process of using the product, as recited in claim 48, recites supplying at least one bar-shaped/pipe-shaped article ( $G_r$ ) and/or other articles ( $G_n$ ) to at least one plane ( $E_n$ ), to which the radiation area (56) is assigned, and at least one article/product ( $G_r/G_n$ ) is moved into irradiation position. In view of the related subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that there is no serious burden imposed by examining the process claims with the elected product claims. Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction is respectfully requested.

In any event, upon determination that the product claims are allowable, applicants will request rejoinder pursuant to MPEP §821.04(b).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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